$$f(x,y)=|d_V|^3(x,y)+|d_H|^3(x,y)$$

and

$$W=\Sigma f(x,y)$$

where d_V and d_H are differences in intensity of neighboring pixels in vertical and horizontal directions respectively, W is edge strength and summation is over said portion;

determining an orientation of said predetermined pixel intensity arrangement;

positioning said templates in alignment with said predetermined pixel intensity arrangement in accordance with said orientation determined by said orientation determination means; and

comparing said plurality of templates to said predetermined pixel intensity arrangement.

9. The method according to claim **8**, wherein an examined portion is discarded if its edge strength does not exceed a preselected threshold.

10. The method according to claim **8**, wherein the step of determining comprises determining edge orientation ϕ in accordance with the following equations:

$$x_0=\{\Sigma f(x,y)x\}/W$$

and

$$y_0=\{\Sigma f(x,y)y\}/W$$

wherein x and y are the coordinates of each of said pixel intensity arrangement,

f(x,y)=$|d_V|^3$(x,y)+$|d_H|^3$(x,y), where d_V and d_H are differences in intensity of neighboring pixels of said pixel intensity arrangement, W=Σf(x,y) over said pixel intensity arrangement, and

$$\phi=\theta+0.5\pi, \text{ if } \epsilon\geqq 0.5$$

and

$$\phi=\theta \text{ if } \epsilon<0.5$$

where

$$\theta=0.5\tan^{-1}(2M_{xy}/M_xM_y)$$

$$\epsilon=(M_x\sin^2\theta+M_y\cos^2\theta+2M_{xy}\sin\theta\cos\theta)/(M_x+M_y)$$

where M_x, M_y and M_{xy} refer to second order moments defined as

$$M_x=\Sigma f(x,y)(x-x_0)^2$$

$$M_y=\Sigma f(x,y)(y-y_0)^2$$

and

$$M_{xy}=\Sigma f(x,y)(x-x_0)(y-y_0)^2$$

and summation is over a circular area preselected diameter center at (x_0,y_0).

11. The method according to claim **10**, wherein said preselected diameter is 8 pixels.

12. The method according to claim **10**, wherein the step of aligning comprises rotation of said templates according to the following equations:

$$x'=x\cos\phi+y\sin\phi$$

and

$$y'=-x\sin\phi+y\cos\phi$$

where (x,y) and (x',y') are coordinates of a pixel before and after rotation respectively.

13. The method according to claim **8**, wherein the step of comparing comprises determining matching strength r in accordance with the following equation:

$$r=\frac{\Sigma v(x,y)t(x,y)}{\sqrt{\Sigma v^2(x,y)}\sqrt{\Sigma t^2(x,y)}}$$

where v(x,y) and t(x,y) are intensity values at (x,y) in a smoothed platen image and template image respectively, and summation is over template size.

14. An anti-counterfeit detector according to claim **13**, wherein a match is indicated by r being greater than a preset threshold.

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